DC
BATMAN
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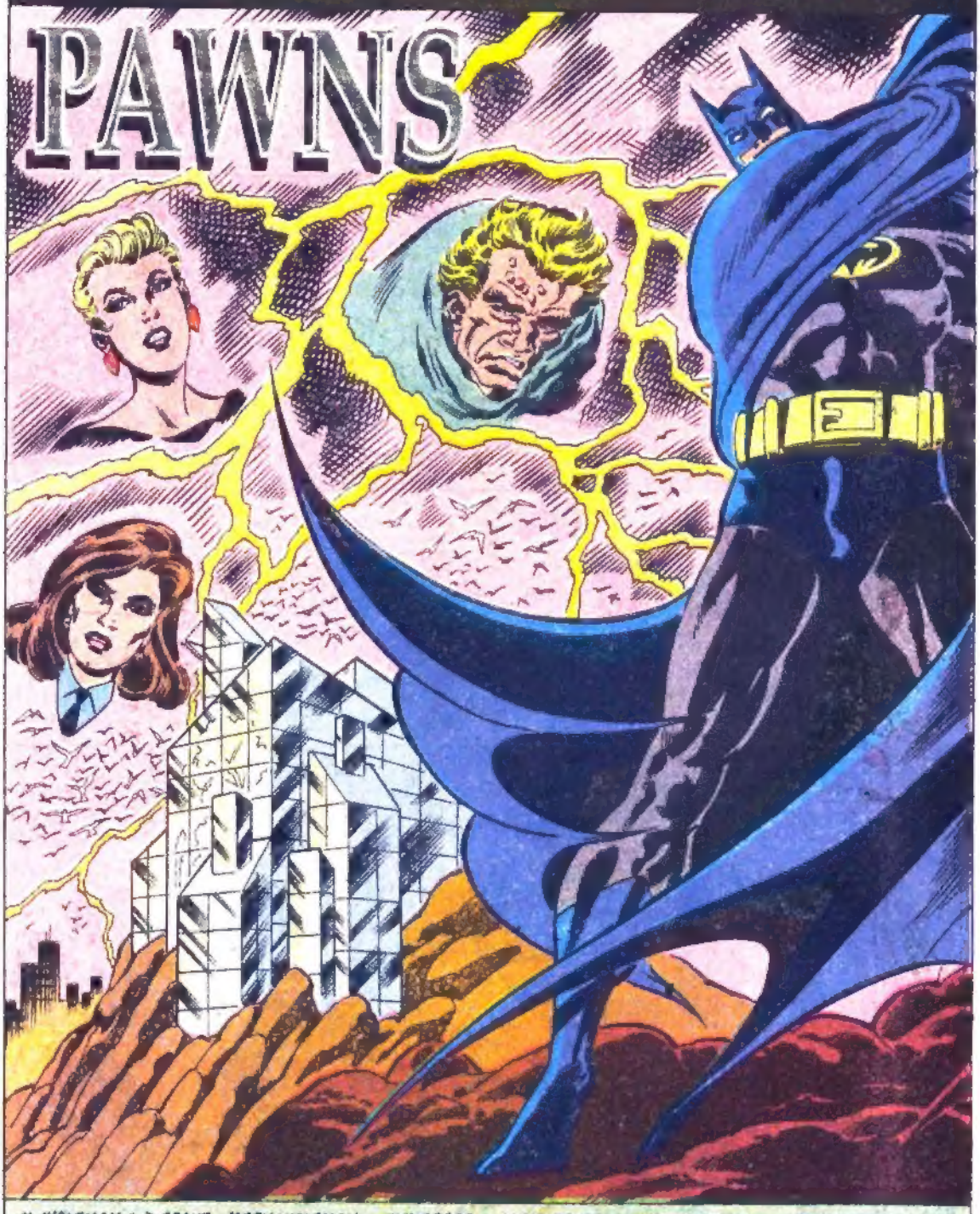
The Penguin Affair
1 of 3

The Penguin Affair: I



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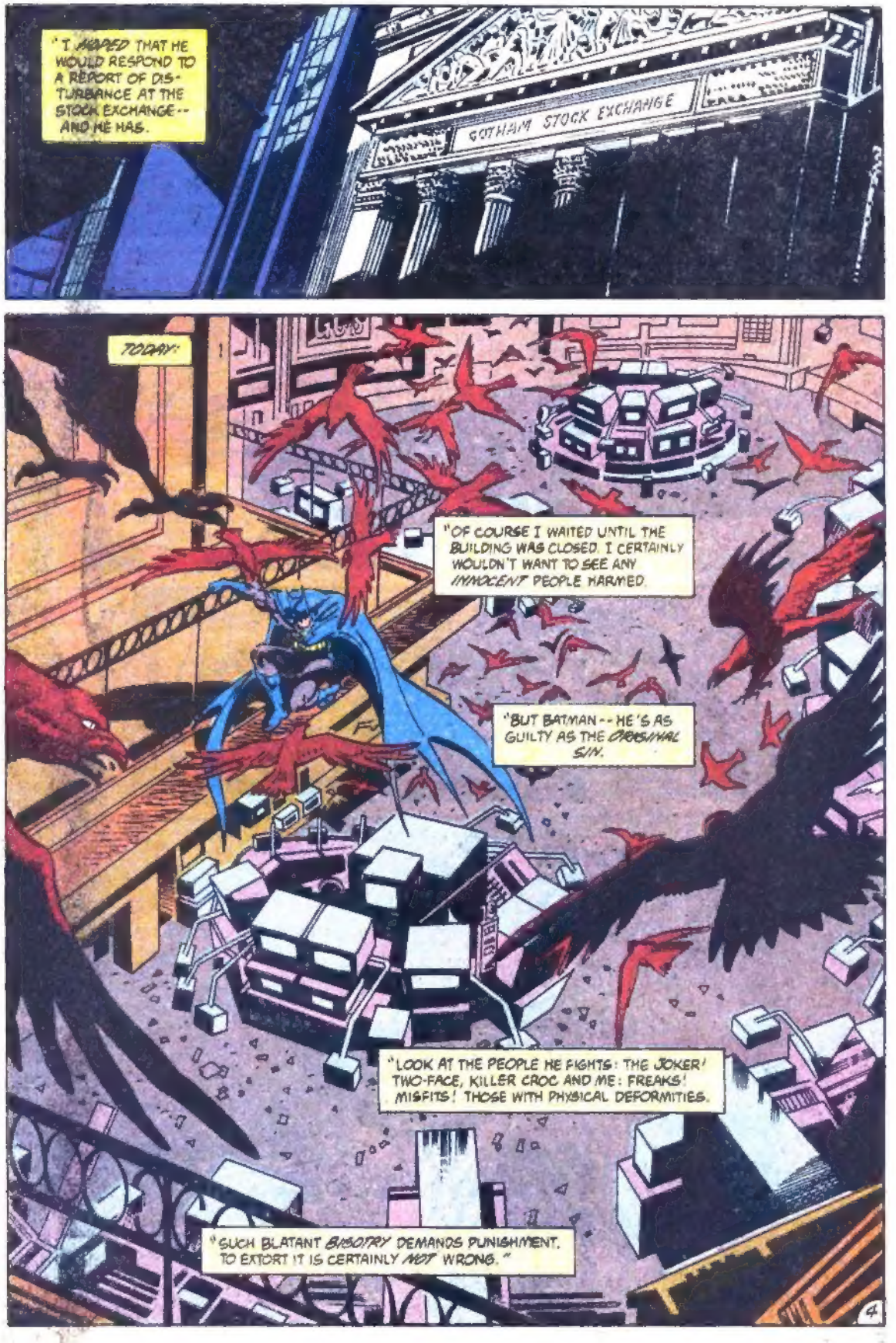
THREE MONTHS AGO:
A WELCOME SILENCE BLANKETS HIM, ALMOST PROTECTS HIM. HE AWKWARDLY LUMBERS FORWARD.
HIS DARK MOODY EYES SWEEP ACROSS THE FLATNESS AS DYING BROWN SHRUBS CRACK AND SPILL QUIETLY TO THE PARCHED GROUND.
OH, JEEZ-- LOOK, CLIFF, YUCCHHHIN'!
GET A FACE, UGLY!
OR PUT A BAG OVER WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
HEY, STOP THE CAR, HUH?
HMMMM. LARK, PULL OVER, PLEASE.
I SEE A KINDRED SPIRIT SOON TO BE IN PAIN.
FACE LIKE YOURS SHOULD BE HID UNDER A ROCK.
MAN, YOU MAKE ME WANNA PUKE!
YEAH--ALL OVER YOU!
2

SIR, PERHAPS I SHOULD STOP THEM--
NO, LARK SOMETIMES FEATHERS NEED TO BE RUFFLED TO ALLOW FOR PROPER GROOMING.
THIS IS BORIN,' MAN. WE CAN'T MAKE HIM NO UGLIER THAN HE WAS ANYHOW.
WHERE THE HELL'S DAWN?
I'M READY. C'MON.
WHATA WE DO WITH THE GEEK?
WHO CARES? MOST DEFINITELY AIN'T TAKIN' HIM WITH US.
LARK, RETRIEVE OUR WOUNDED BIRD, WILL YOU?
YES SIR, OF COURSE
SIR, HIS BREATHING IS SHALLOW.
FIRST WE WILL MEND HIM.
THEN WE SHALL SEE THAT HE IS PROPERLY PREENED AND THEN WE SHALL SEE IF HE CAN BE PUT TO USE.
DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED, MY LITTLE FRIEND.
WE ARE, AFTER ALL, TWO BIRDS OF A FEATHER.
YOU ARE IN A SAFE NEST NOW.
3


"I KNEW THAT HE WOULD RESPOND TO A REPORT OF DISTURBANCE AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE -- AND HE HAS.
GOTHAM STOCK EXCHANGE
TODAY:
"OF COURSE I WAITED UNTIL THE BUILDING WAS CLOSED. I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE ANY INNOCENT PEOPLE HARMED.
"BUT BATMAN -- HE'S AS GUILTY AS THE ORIGINAL SIN.
"LOOK AT THE PEOPLE HE FIGHTS: THE JOKER! TWO-FACE, KILLER CROC AND ME: FREAKS! MISFITS! THOSE WITH PHYSICAL DEFORMITIES.
"SUCH BLATANT BIGOTRY DEMANDS PUNISHMENT. TO EXTORT IT IS CERTAINLY NOT WRONG."
4

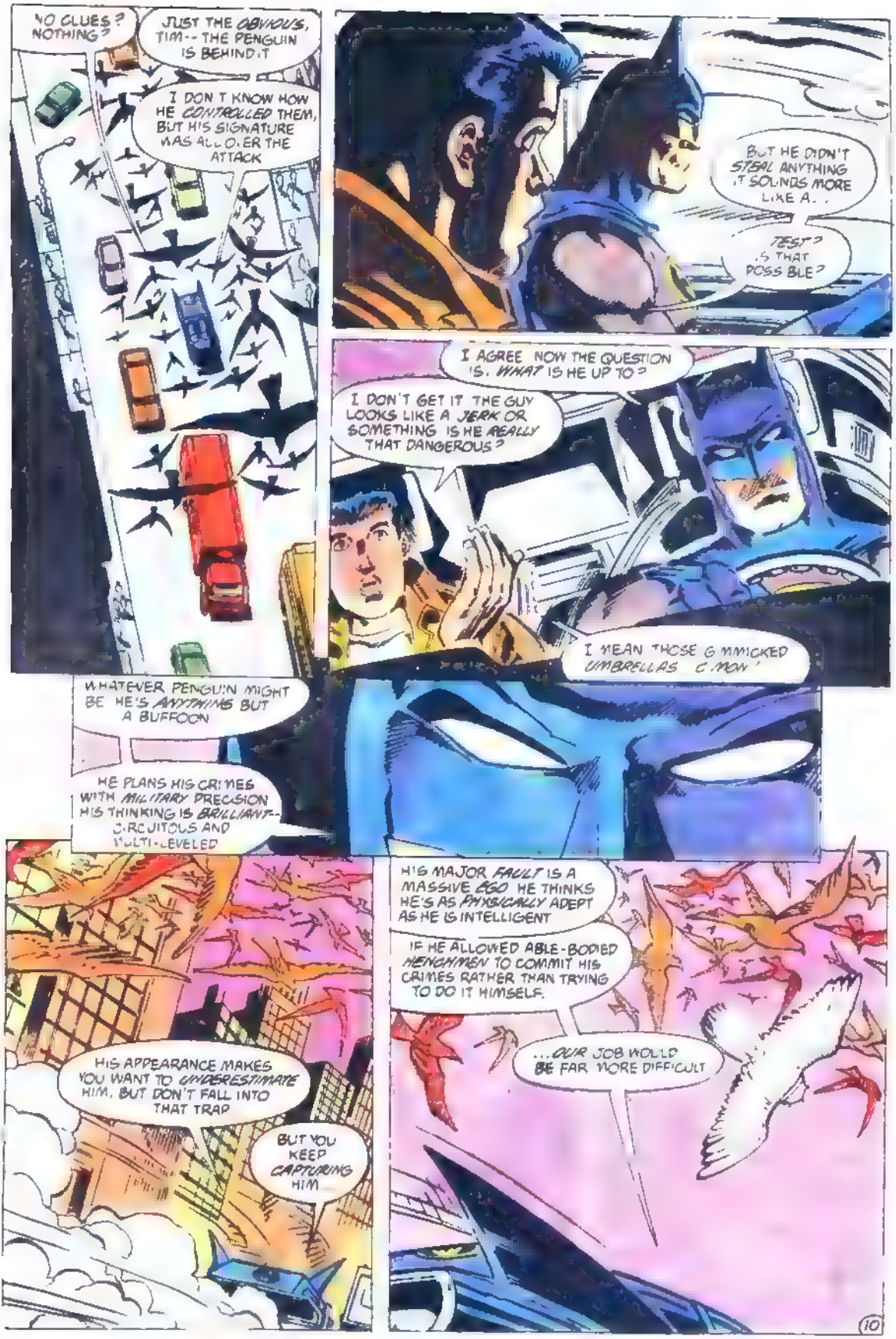
"HE'D PUNISH YOU IF HE HAD THE CHANCE, AND YOU KNOW HE WOULD.
"MY LITTLE MUTE FRIEND -- HE'S NO DIFFERENT FROM YOUR MOTHER.
"AUTHORITY FIGURES, THEY ARE CALLED. TO BE RESPECTED, TO BE HONORED.
"BUT ALL THEY DO IS WANT TO HURT.
"WE'VE PUT UP WITH ENOUGH HURT, HAVEN'T WE, HAROLD?
"AND WE ARE TIRED OF IT ALL, AREN'T WE?
"AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANY MORE, RIGHT?"
SKAK
5

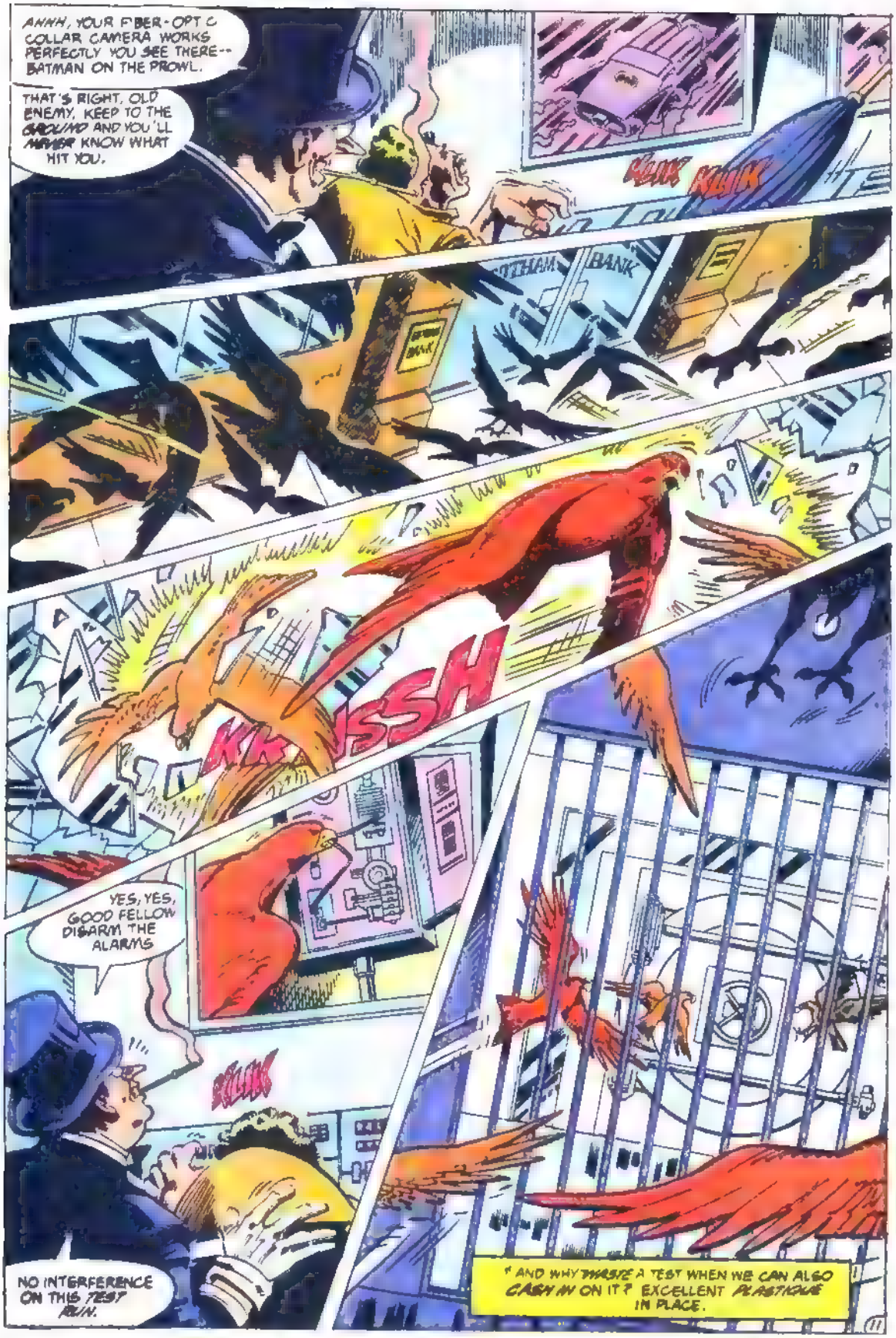
PAM
PAM
PAM
"LOOK AT HIM, HAROLD. HE'S HURT OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS. THE MAN'S A KILLER.
PAM
PAM
FOOOSH

"THEY'RE DEAD... OUR FRIENDS ARE DEAD.
"THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH, HAROLD."
WELL, AT LEAST THE FIRST TEST OF YOUR LITTLE TOY WORKED SPLENDIDLY.
STILL, THIS WAS MERELY AN ATTACK. NEXT WE WILL SEE IF WE CAN CONTROL OUR WINGED WARRIORS. BUT FIRST--
KNIGHT TAKES ROOK.
CHECK.
BISHOP TAKES QUEEN.
CHECK AND MATE.
HAROLD, I'VE BEEN INDULGING IN CHESS EVER SINCE I WAS A MERE HATCHLING
ITS PLAY REQUIRES INTRICATE PLANNING THAT FORCES ONE TO NOT ONLY PLAN EACH MOVE FAR AHEAD...
..BUT TO ACCOUNT FOR ANY AND ALL CONTINGENCIES
NUMBER EIGHT, SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR QUEEN.
CHESS EXCITES ME, ENTHRALLS ME, VIRTUALLY CONSUMES ME
CHESS IS WAR, MON PETIT, QUIET FRIEND. SCAVENGER AGAINST PREY. BIRD AGAINST WORM.
IT REQUIRES TOTAL FOCUSED CONCENTRATION AND MASTERFULLY PRECISE STRATEGY.
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHY NOBODY IS REMOTELY MY EQUAL--
WAUGH!!
NIM AGAIN!
HIS MOVE HAS ME COOPERED MATE IN TWO UNLESS I CAN ESCAPE.

WE'VE BEEN BATTLING EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE WORMFEEDERS, HE AND I
THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS EVER PROVEN A CHALLENGE!
I WIN, HE WINS, WE DRAW.'
WE USED TO MAIL UNSIGNED POST-CARDS TO EACH OTHER'S POST BOXES. WAR FROM A DISTANCE BETWEEN FACELESS, NAMELESS ANTAGONISTS.
NOW OUR BATTLE OF WITS IS PLAYED OVER COMPUTER SCREENS VIA MODEMS.
AHA.' HERE.' THE WATKINS MANEUVER! PERFECT!
I'VE DONE IT, LITTLE HAROLD. TURNED THE FEATHER, PECKED A HOLE IN HIS STURDY OAK.
FROM LOON TO EAGLE IN ONE DEFT MOVE!
CHECK, NUMBER NINE -- CHECK. LET'S SEE NOW WHOSE WINGS ARE CLIPPED AND WHO SOARS FREE AND HIGH!
BINGBINGBINGBI
WAUGHHH! THE ALARM.' CAN IT BE THAT TIME ALREADY?
WE MUST PUT OFF OUR SECOND TEST FOR ONE HOUR MORE.
HERON'S EMPIRE WAS ALMOST IN RUIN WHEN WE SAW HER LAST WEEK.
HER ONLY HOPE WAS TO KILL HER HUSBAND AND USE HIS INSURANCE MONEY TO FINANCE THE BOLIVIAN COUP D'ETAT.
Heartstrings
Heartstrings
PEARLS TO KILL SWINE! HERON, YOU'RE MY KIND OF WOMAN!
A BEAUTIFUL SWAN POSSESSING A VULTURE'S APPETITE.
SHE'S REJECTED ALL MY GIFTS I'VE SENT TO HER BEFORE -- STILL I CANNOT GIVE UP. I WILL MAKE HER MINE.
8

I SMITE A WORTHLESS WITLING LIKE KADAVER, GET SENT TO GOTHAM PEN AND MUST ARRANGE MY OWN ESCAPE.
SHE KILLS AND SHE INHERITS THE DEAD MAN'S FORTUNE
THIS WORLD BELONGS TO THE BEAUTIFUL, LITTLE ONE.
WHICH IS WHY PEOPLE LIKE US MUST STICK TOGETHER.
WE ARE SCARS ON HUMANITY'S FACE...
IGNORED. JEERED. RIDICULED. ALL THE WHILE POSSESSING MOST OF MAN'S GENIUS
TAKE YOU, FOR EXAMPLE. MUTE, HUNCHED OVER, MORE MONSTER THAN MAN IN THE EYES OF OUR SO-CALLED CIVILIZATION--
KLIK KLIK
WHO COULD HAVE GUESSED THAT BENEATH YOUR APPALLING APPEARANCE YOU HAVE A SAVANT BRILLIANCE WHEN IT COMES TO... MACHINES.
EINSTEIN'S MIND IN A QUASIMODO'S BODY.
EVEN I WAS DUMBFOUNDED WHEN I ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVERED THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO INVENT WHAT OTHERS COULD NEVER HOPE TO IMAGINE.
YOU CANNOT SPEAK, YET YOU'VE SHOWN ME HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS.
"ALL RIGHT, NOW OUR SECOND TEST. LET OUR BIRDS SOAR"
9


NO CLUES? NOTHING?
JUST THE OBVIOUS, TIM-- THE PENGUIN IS BEHIND IT
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE CONTROLLED THEM, BUT HIS SIGNATURE WAS ALL OVER THE ATTACK
BUT HE DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE A...
TEST? IS THAT POSSIBLE?
I AGREE NOW THE QUESTION IS, WHAT IS HE UP TO?
I DON'T GET IT THE GUY LOOKS LIKE A JERK OR SOMETHING IS HE REALLY THAT DANGEROUS?
I MEAN THOSE GIMMICKED UMBRELLAS C'MON!
WHATEVER PENGUIN MIGHT BE HE'S ANYTHING BUT A BUFFOON
HE PLANS HIS CRIMES WITH MILITARY PRECISION HIS THINKING IS BRILLIANT-- CIRCUITOUS AND MULTI-LEVELED
HIS MAJOR FAULT IS A MASSIVE EGO HE THINKS HE'S AS PHYSICALLY ADEPT AS HE IS INTELLIGENT
IF HE ALLOWED ABLE-BODIED HENCHMEN TO COMMIT HIS CRIMES RATHER THAN TRYING TO DO IT HIMSELF,
...OUR JOB WOULD BE FAR MORE DIFFICULT
HIS APPEARANCE MAKES YOU WANT TO UNDERESTIMATE HIM, BUT DON'T FALL INTO THAT TRAP
BUT YOU KEEP CAPTURING HIM

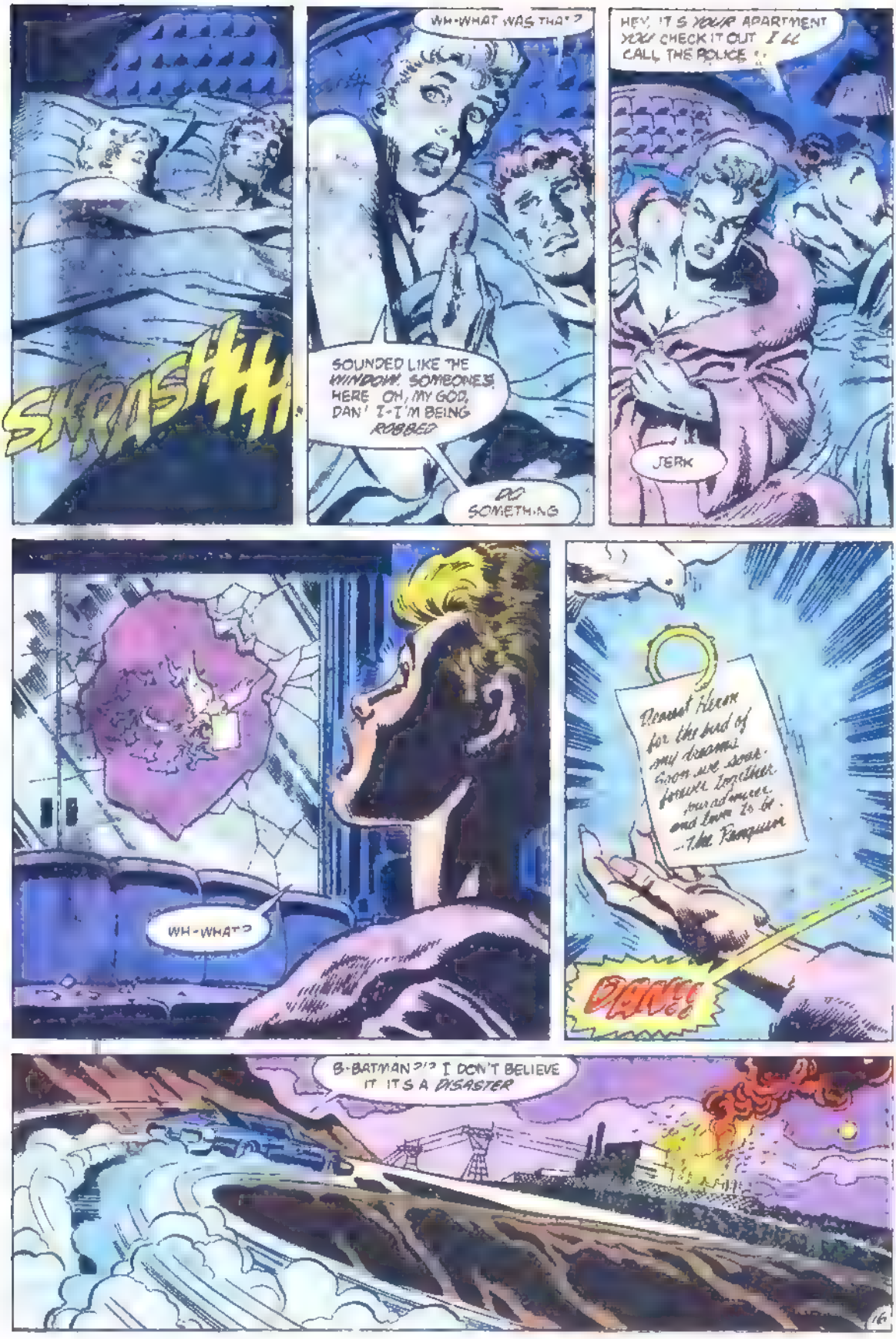

AHHH, YOUR FIBER-OPTIC COLLAR CAMERA WORKS PERFECTLY YOU SEE THERE-- BATMAN ON THE PROWL.
THAT'S RIGHT, OLD ENEMY, KEEP TO THE GROUND AND YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT YOU.
KLIK KLIK
BANK
KKSSSH
YES, YES, GOOD FELLOW DISARM THE ALARMS
KLIK
NO INTERFERENCE ON THIS TEST RUN.
" AND WHY THESE A TEST WHEN WE CAN ALSO CASH IN ON IT? EXCELLENT PLASTIQUE IN PLACE.

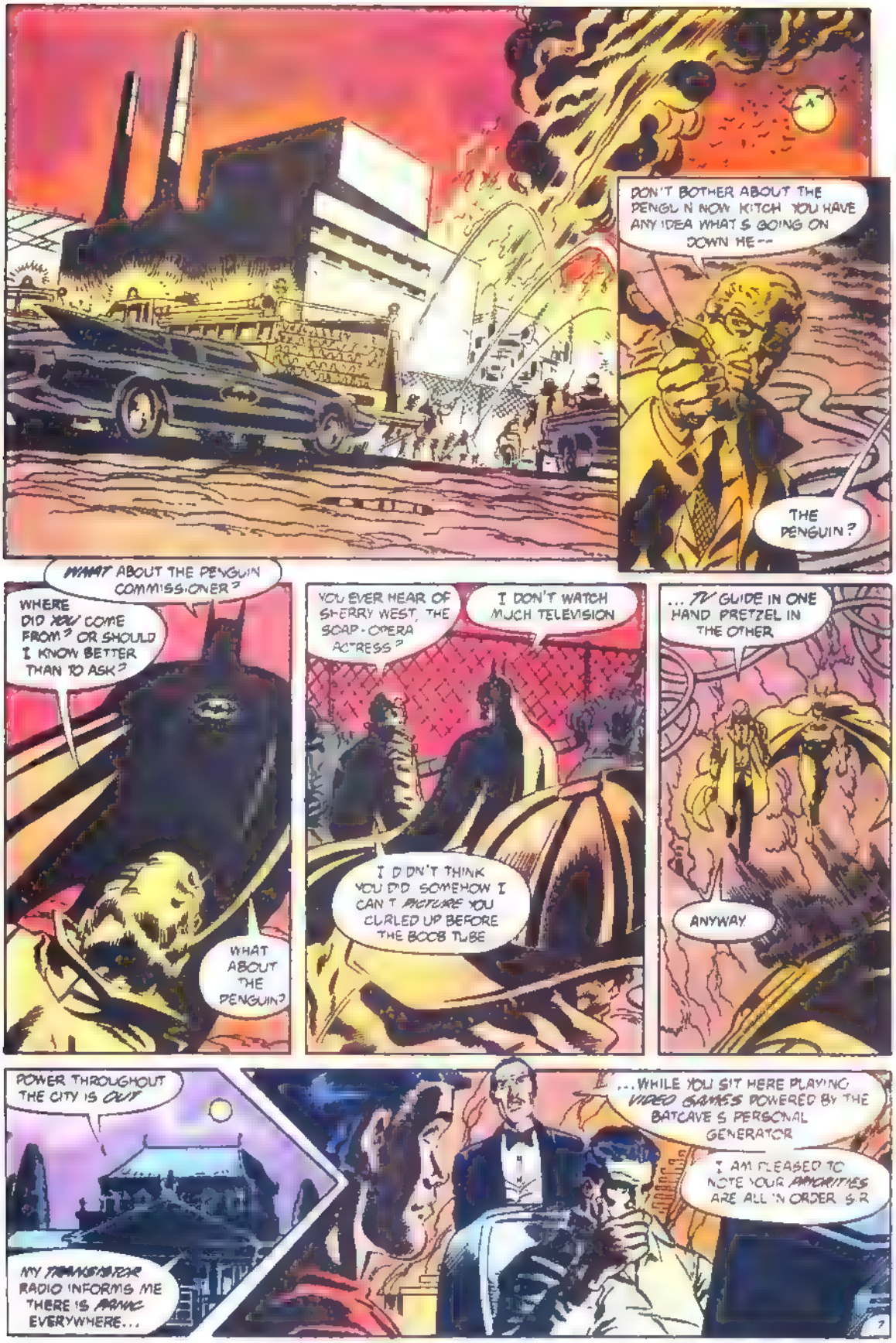
EXCELLENT MAESTRO! YOU HAVE TOTAL CONTROL OVER OUR FINE-FEATHERED FRIENDS
NOW ORDER THEM HOME WITH THE BOUNTY YOU'VE DONE WELL
SO LET ME HAVE SOME FUN, WILL YOU?
LET'S HAVE THE BIRDS GO WILD AND SEE WHAT COMMOTION WE CAN STIR?
AND REMEMBER WE MUST BE BIG BRASH! THE WORLD MUST NOTE WHAT WE'VE DONE TODAY
SKRACH!
WHAT THE HE--
SKRAKK
SKREEE
KRUNCH!
12

.. CRAZY ! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE! WE NEED HELP!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! CALL THE ZOO! GET ANIMAL CONTROL! JUST GET HELP!
EMERGENCY IN WASHINGTON TUNNEL. BIRDS ARE ATTACKING--
BIRDS?
PENGUIN?
PENGUIN!
ALFRED HITCHCOCK EAT YOUR HEART OUT
YOU'RE BOTHERED BY THIS, AREN'T YOU, MY LITTLE FRIEND?
'AHEM' OF COURSE YOU ARE!
YOU ARE A CANARY IN A WORLD OF HUNGRY CATS.
I, AHEM -- GUESS I'M NOT AS ABLE AS YOU IN CONTROLLING OUR FRIENDS. THEY GOT OUT OF HAND, NO?
ENOUGH FOR TODAY, THEN HAROLD. GO TO YOUR ROOM PLEASE
CLARK OUR FRIEND HERE IS RATHER STRESSED
GIVE HIM A WARM GENTLE MASSAGE
13

YOU WANT ME TO TOUCH HIM? HIM?
HE'S DISGUSTING. I CAN'T
OH, YES YOU CAN, LARK--AND IF I SAY SO, YOU WILL.
LOOK PAST THE FAULTY FACADE
HE'S A MAN NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY
HE ACHES FOR A HUMAN'S TOUCH YOU WON'T DENY HIM THAT BECAUSE OF MERE LOOKS.
BESIDES--
--AS HIDEOUS AS HE MAY BE, WE NEED HIS AMAZING BRAIN!
SO YOU WILL PRETEND TO ENJOY HIS COARSE AND MOTTLED FLESH
BUT ONCE I HAVE THE MILLIONS HIS AGILE MIND WILL PROVIDE ME--
--YOU CAN ELIMINATE THAT GRUESOME FREAK ANY WAY YOU WISH
KLIK KLIK
GO NOW WHILE I RETURN TO MY FUN!

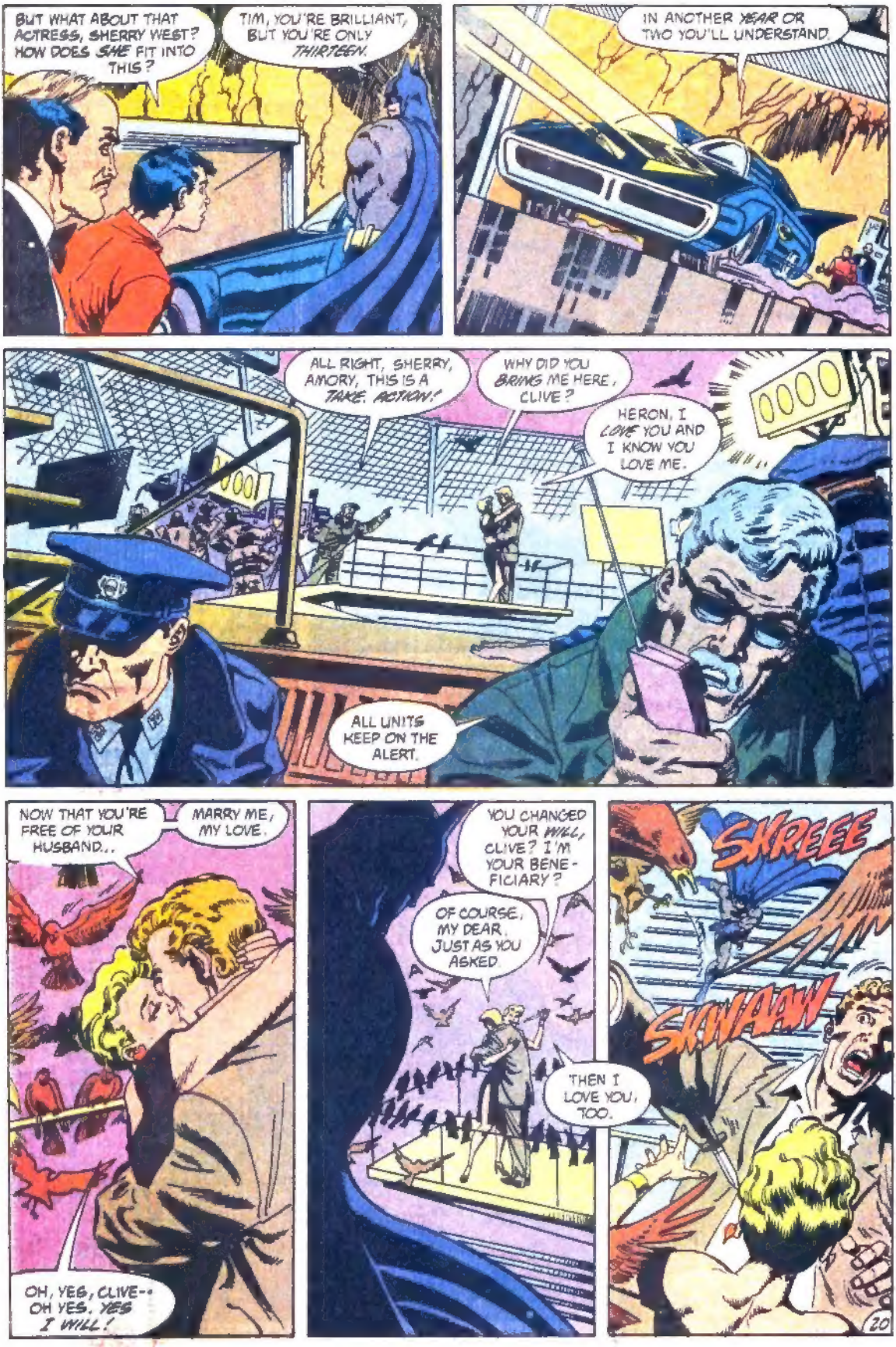
WAUGHH
WAUGHH
WAUGHHH!
STAY INSIDE.
OKAY, BUT IF YOU NEED HELP--
MY 'GOD'
BATMAN -- THE RADIO . THERE'S AN EMERGENCY!
BIRDS ARE ATTACKING THE WEST SIDE POWER PLANT
15


SKRASHH
WH-WHAT WAS THAT?
SOUNDED LIKE THE WINDOW! SOMEONE'S HERE OH, MY GOD, DAN! I-I'M BEING ROBBED
DO SOMETHING
HEY, IT'S YOUR APARTMENT YOU CHECK IT OUT I'LL CALL THE POLICE
JERK
WH-WHAT?
Meant Heron for the end of our dreams. Soon we soar forever together. Nevermore. and then to be. -The Penguin
DANG!
B-BATMAN?!? I DON'T BELIEVE IT IT'S A DISASTER
16


DON'T BOTHER ABOUT THE PENGU N NOW KITCH YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT S GOING ON DOWN HE--
THE PENGUIN?
WHAT ABOUT THE PENGUIN COMMISS-ONER?
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? OR SHOULD I KNOW BETTER THAN TO ASK?
WHAT ABOUT THE PENGUIN?
YOU EVER HEAR OF SHERRY WEST, THE SOAP-OPERA ACTRESS?
I DON'T WATCH MUCH TELEVISION
I D DN'T THINK YOU D D SOMEHOW I CAN T PICTURE YOU CURLED UP BEFORE THE BOOB TUBE
... TV GUIDE IN ONE HAND PRETZEL IN THE OTHER
ANYWAY
POWER THROUGHOUT THE CITY IS OUT
MY TRANSISTOR RADIO INFORMS ME THERE IS PANIC EVERYWHERE...
...WHILE YOU SIT HERE PLAYING VIDEO GAMES POWERED BY THE BATCAVE S PERSONAL GENERATOR
I AM PLEASED TO NOTE YOUR PRIORITIES ARE ALL 'N ORDER S R
7

ONE MOMENT, ALFRED
I'M THINKING
PERFECT
KLIK KLIK
NINTENDO WILL BE SO PLEASED TO HEAR THAT
CHESS SHARPENS YOUR SKILLS ALFRED YOU SHOULD TRY IT
THE LONDON TIMES SUNDAY CROSSWORD IS QUITE ENOUGH FOR ME SIR
I DON'T GET IT PENGUINS OUT THERE ARE GOING BIRDS TO TERRORIZE THE CITY
HE THREATENS SOME ACTRESS WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
DOWNTIME TIM
THERE'S LITTLE TIME FOR CREATIVE THINKING WHEN YOU'RE CONSTANTLY REACTING TO EVENTS
SOMETIMES THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IS TO REMOVE YOURSELF FROM THEM
IF ONLY FOR A WHILE

WHAT DO WE KNOW? FIRST, THE PENGUIN'S DEVELOPED THE TECHNOLOGY TO CONTROL BIRDS AND PERHAPS OTHER ANIMALS
WE NEED TO KNOW NOW, AND WHY.
TILL NOW HE'S BEEN MAKING TESTS BUT, BECAUSE THE PENGUIN IS STILL BASICALLY A THIEF AT HEART--
--HE COMMITTED SEVERAL ROBBERIES DURING THOSE TESTS.
HOWEVER, THOSE THEFTS ARE NOT HIS END. THEY WEREN'T GRAND ENOUGH TO BE THAT
BUT THEY, COUPLED WITH HIS ATTACKS ON THE WASHINGTON TUNNEL AND THE GOTHAM CENTRAL POWER PLANT--
--ARE ENOUGH TO GENERATE NEWS HEADLINES.
THEREFORE HE WANTS PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT HIS INVENTION. HE'S BUYING HIS OWN PUBLICITY
SO NOW WE UNDERSTAND THE WHY.
IT'S EITHER TO SELL HIS SERVICES TO OTHER CRIMINALS...
...OR TO SELL THE TECHNOLOGY ITSELF.
QUESTIONS LEFT: WHICH IS IT? WHO IS HE AFTER TO SELL IT TO?
FINALLY, WHEN AND WHERE DOES HE PLAN TO SELL IT?
ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS AND WE HAVE HIM.


BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT ACTRESS, SHERRY WEST? HOW DOES SHE FIT INTO THIS?
TIM, YOU'RE BRILLIANT, BUT YOU'RE ONLY THIRTEEN.
IN ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.
ALL RIGHT, SHERRY, AMORY, THIS IS A TAKE. ACTION!
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE, CLIVE?
HERON, I LOVE YOU AND I KNOW YOU LOVE ME.
ALL UNITS KEEP ON THE ALERT.
NOW THAT YOU'RE FREE OF YOUR HUSBAND...
MARRY ME, MY LOVE.
OH, YES, CLIVE-- OH YES. YES I WILL!
YOU CHANGED YOUR WILL, CLIVE? I'M YOUR BENEFICIARY?
OF COURSE, MY DEAR. JUST AS YOU ASKED
THEN I LOVE YOU, TOO.
SKREEE
SKWAAAW
20

GET THEM OFF ME!
WH-WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
HELP ME...YOU SAID YOU'D PROTECT ME!!
SKREEEE
CAWWW
THE PENGUIN! STOP HIM!
CAW
SKRE
UNNYAHHH
OUT OF MY WAY
MOVE!!

WAUGH WAUGHH WAUGHHH NO, NO, BATMAN -- HERON MUST BE MY LITTLE BIRD.
I DO BELIEVE A DIVERSION IS CALLED FOR.
BY THE TIME DAWN'S FIRST ROSE SHIMMERS BRIGHTLY ON THE HORIZON, HERON WILL BE MINE.
AND BATMAN WILL BE DEAD.
ALL IN ALL, A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!
JEWELRY
SKRASSUH

TO BE CONTINUED IN DETECTIVE COMICS #615

NEXT MONTH: THE CONCLUSION!